AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. – 37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus which produces high molecular weight polyester from raw materials of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid or its derivative and glycols, the apparatus comprising:

a first reactor in which the aromatic dicarboxylic acid or its derivative is reacted with the glycols, thereby producing a first product;

a second reactor in which the first product from the first reactor is polycondensed, thereby producing a second product which is a low molecular weight polyester polymerized to a higher degree than said first product; and

a third reactor in which the second product from the second reactor is further polycondensed, thereby producing a high molecular weight polyester polymerized to a higher degree than the low molecular weight polyester,

wherein said third reactor comprises a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel, an inlet for the low molecular weight polyester from the second reactor disposed at one end of the vessel, an outlet for the high molecular weight polyester disposed at another end of the vessel, and a stirring rotor which is provided and rotated in the vessel to stir the second product fed to the third reactor,

wherein said stirring rotor comprises a plurality of stirring blocks depending on viscosities of the low molecular weight polyester polycondensed in the third reactor, and having no shaft at the rotating center, each of said stirring blocks having a

plurality of disks next to each other and connected to each other by rods in parallel to the rotating center around a hollow at a center area of the disks, and scraping vanes disposed on its periphery portion around the rods in a space between adjacent disks, said plurality of disks having a plate portion at least in its periphery portion; and

wherein a space between the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the space between the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer, and each of the scraping vanes disposed on the plate portions in the adjacent disks of the high viscosity side of the stirring blocks extends discontinuously to the adjacent disk and is alternately arranged on the one disk and on another adjacent disk respectively such that a track of one scraping vane on one disk can overlap that of the one scraping vane on another adjacent disk when these disks are rotated.

39. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the stirring rotor is provided such that a film of the low molecular weight polyester is formed over the hollow by low molecular weight polyester being scooped up by the scraping vanes and flowing downward as the stirring rotor rotates.

40. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a number of the scraping vanes in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is smaller than the number of the scraping vanes in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

41. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 40, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the

stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

42. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a number of the scraping vanes in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is smaller than the number of the scraping vanes in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

45. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

46. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said scraping vanes are closer to the periphery of the disks than the rods are to the periphery of the disks.

47. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus which

produces high molecular weight polyester from raw materials of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid or its derivative and glycols, wherein the aromatic dicarboxylic acid or its derivatives are reacted in a first reactor, forming a resulting first product, the first product being polycondensed in a second reactor to form a second product which is a low molecular weight polyester, and the second product is further polycondensed in a third reactor, the apparatus comprising:

said third reactor which further polycondenses the second product from the second reactor, thereby producing a high molecular weight polyester polymerized to a higher degree than the low molecular weight polyester,

wherein said third reactor comprises a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel, an inlet for the low molecular weight polyester from the second reactor disposed at one end of the vessel, an outlet for the high molecular weight polyester disposed at another end of the vessel, and a stirring rotor which is provided and rotated in the vessel to stir the second product fed to the third reactor,

wherein said stirring rotor comprises a plurality of stirring blocks depending on viscosities of the low molecular weight polyester polycondensed therein, and having no shaft at the rotating center, each of said stirring blocks having a plurality of disks next to each other and connected to each other by rods disposed in parallel to the rotating center around a hollow at a center area of the disks, and scraping vanes disposed on its periphery portion around the rods in a space between adjacent disks, said plurality of disks having a plate portion at least in its periphery portion; and

wherein a space between the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the space between the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer, and each of the scraping vanes disposed on the adjacent disks of the high viscosity side of the

stirring blocks extends discontinuously to the adjacent disk and is alternately arranged on the one disk and on another adjacent disk respectively such that a track of one scraping vane on one disk can overlap that of the one scraping vane on another adjacent disk when these disks are rotated.

48. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the stirring rotor is provided such that a film of the low molecular weight polyester is formed over the hollow by low molecular weight material being scooped up by the scraping vanes and flowing downward as the stirring rotor rotates.

49. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein a number of the scraping vanes in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is smaller than the number of the scraping vanes in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

50. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

51. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 48, wherein a number of the scraping vanes in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is smaller than the number of the scraping vanes in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

52. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 50, wherein a number of the scraping vanes in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is smaller than the number of the scraping vanes in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

53. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 48, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

54. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 51, wherein an area of the hollow of the disks in a high viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the outlet is nearer, is larger than the area of the hollow of the disks in a low viscosity side of the stirring blocks, where the inlet is nearer.

55. (Previously presented) A polyester manufacturing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said scraping vanes are closer to the periphery of the disks than the rods are to the periphery of the disks.